Past Empires of Daniel 11

This is part of a complete timeline of Daniel 11, with verse-by-verse history of each empire, which match keywords in each verse, with no gaps (also in condensed version). These first two verses (Persia and Greece) are the same as previous interpretations but that changes on Daniel 11:4. (Note: This page was put on PDF to save memory space.)

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Persia

Daniel 11:2

"Now then, I tell you the truth: Three more kings will appear in Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. When he has gained power by his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece."

Daniel received the "Book of Truth" in the third year of Cyrus, king of Persia (Dan. 10:1), so the meaning of this verse is pretty straightforward. Cyrus' son, Cambyses II, was the first king to appear and reigned from 530-523bc. Cyrus' other son, Bardiya, was the second king but he only reigned for seven months. The reason for his short reign was that many thought he was an impostor and the real Bardiya had already died. True or not, he was killed by Darius the Mede who became the third king and reigned from 522-486bc.

The forth king who was 'far richer' and 'stirred up Greece' was Darius' son, Xerxes I, who ruled between 486-465bc. During his reign, the Persian Empire was at its peak and held a greater percentage of the world population than any empire before. In 480bc, Xerxes invaded Greece and sacked Athens. However, the army that he left in place was defeated the next year. That ended the Persian expansion into Europe and caused the Greek cities to revolt, which eventually brought the demise of the Persian Empire.
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Greece

Daniel 11:3
Then a mighty king will appear, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases.

The mighty king was obviously Alexander "the Great" of Greece (or Macedonia) because the previous verse even mentions Greece. Besides, Alexander is credited for conquering the greatest land area in the shortest period of time than anyone before him. He came to power in 336bc and conquered the entire Persian Empire in about four years. Yet, he only ruled for about nine years because he died in 323bc, at age 33. Some say he was poisoned and others think he died of Malaria but he was never defeated in battle.

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